

From: Carl Friedberg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 4:50pm
Subject: Proposed settlement to the Microsoft Antitrust case

Honorable Judge:

I am not a direct party to this action, but I would like to express my dismay that Microsoft has not been punished for violating the anti-trust statutes.

While I am not a lawyer, I am a user of computer products and services. Microsoft has attained dominance in this industry by using methods which have been legally judged to be anticompetitive. What punishment have they received for their actions? What is being done to keep them from doing this again, and again? Nothing has been addressed, for instance, regarding the latest onslaught from Microsoft, "dot net" and Windows XP. Both of these products continue these same practices, and nothing in the proposed settlement will curtail Microsoft's anti-competitive practices.

Microsoft, in a separate action, has worked out a settlement of a large number of class action suits against it. The proposed settlement of those cases rewards Microsoft by placing their monopolistic software in many schools which might not be able to afford it otherwise, giving Microsoft yet another non-competitive foothold in a new market. In that case, I understand that RedHat Software has offered to provide free software for every school in the US, with Microsoft's \$1,000,000,000 "fine" being used strictly to purchase hardware. That's more in line with a punishment, than a reward, in my opinion.

Please, consider alternative solutions which will punish Microsoft for violating the law, and keep them on the path of lawful action.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Friedberg
President & CEO
Comet & Company
carl@comets.com
New York, NY